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being at the extreme western portion of the taluk, was too far away for the inhabitants of Poonjar, Thedanaad, Chennad and Cholad to derive any aid from it. Some time ago the Medical officer at Lalam used to come to Earttupetta bi-weekly and dispense medicines, but it was discontinued after some time. He prayed that the practice of dispensing medicines at Erattupetta be re-established as before. He also pointed out that there was not a single vydiasala in their midst and urged the necessity of opening vydiasalas in the malarious and unhealthy parts of the taluk, viz., Bharananganam, Earattupettah and Ramapuram.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

The opening of a dispensary at Karukachal.

Mr. Parameswara Kurup Iravi Kurup (Member, Changanacheri taluk) stated that the inhabitants of Nedukunnam in the Changanacheri taluk suffered a great deal for want of medical aid, the nearest hospital at Changanacheri being 9 to 17 miles distant from the place; that most of the inhabitants, who numbered more than 5,000, were poverty-stricken low caste people; and that the opening of a dispensary in their midst would be a great blessing to them. If this was not feasible, the Member proposed that a bi-weekly dispensary, under the supervision of the Changanacheri Medical Officer, be established at Karukachal.

On being asked by the Dewan whether a vydiasala would not do for the place, the Member said that it was not sufficient as it would not meet the requirements in labour cases.

The raising of the status of the Parur hospital.

Mr. A. Govinda Menon, B. A. (Member, Parur taluk) represented that the present medical institution should be raised to the rank of a first class hospital with an officer not below the status of an Assistant Surgeon. He said that, in point of daily attendance, &c., Parur was not below Alleppey and other towns where there are first class hospitals. The present building is not commodious and is situated in a very unhealthy quarter. The want of a competent officer sometimes put the people to the necessity of seeking medical relief from Ernakulam.

Dewan's reply.—Plans and estimates for a good hospital have been sanctioned. As regards the deputation of a competent Medical officer, I have to say that the matter of posting is left to the Darbar Physician.

VII. Education.

9. The desirability of introducing certain changes in the Education Code and in the present education policy of the State

P. K. Kesava Pillai, B. A., B. L. (Member, Trivandrum taluk) said that the fundamental defects of the Education

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Code were due to an ignorance of the true social and economic condition of the people and to a desire to push the theory of efficiency a little too far. He observed that efficiency could not be pushed too far in a poor country like Travancore, which lacked in public spirit, and that, in pushing the theory of efficiency, the institutions should be only mended and not ended. Too rigid insistence on the provisions of the Code and the want of sympathy on the part of the Education Department have resulted in the stoppage of grants and the closing of schools. The Member quoted the opinion of Mr. Easwara Pillai, B. A., late Inspector of Schools, who stated that the Code struck at the root of private enterprise, discouraged higher Vernacular Education, and ignored Industrial and Technical Education.

The Member next dwelt on the difficulties created by the several provisions of the Code and made the following suggestions :—

(a) *Percentage of attendance of students.* The present practice of enforcing 85 p. c. of attendance separately for each term was working much hardship. In the Madras Presidency, the percentage was only 65 for both the terms together. The percentage of attendance should be reduced to 70 for the whole school year.

Dewan:—Some modification may be necessary. The matter will be looked into.

(b) *Admission of pupils who had undergone private tuition.* Under Section 71 of the Code, a boy who sought admission into a Secondary School for the first time would not be admitted into any higher class than the Preparatory Class, even though he was found fit for admission to a higher class. It was hard that a boy who had undergone private tuition should not be given admission into the Form for which he was found fit on examination. Provision should be made in the Code, so as to recognize private tuition up to Form III at least.

(c) *Delay in securing admission from one school into another.* Under Rule 74 of the Code, a transfer certificate would be issued after the first fifteen working days of the school year, only with the sanction of the Inspector. When a boy sought admission into a school with a transfer certificate issued with such sanction, the headmaster of the school where admission was sought had again to obtain the sanction of the Inspector to give admission and it took a long time to obtain this second sanction. This delayed the admission of the boy and prevented him from securing the requisite attendance.

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Dewan:—The rule has since been changed to obviate the necessity for the second sanction.

(d) *Attendance of students during epidemics.* The present practice of admitting a boy under Rule 41 of the Code soon after the disappearance of the scab of smallpox on his body, while directing an inmate of his house to wait for 16 days after the disappearance of every scab in the last case in the house, was anomalous, and the distinction was arbitrary.

The Sanitary Commissioner (with the permission of the Dewan) pointed out that, in the first case, the boy was not capable of carrying incubation, while the inmate was capable of doing so and hence a longer period was necessary in regard to the latter.

(e) *Objectionable nature of the text books prescribed for the Malayalam Girls' Schools.* The Member said that these books were not prescribed with due attention to their moral nature, and he requested the Government to do the needful in the matter.

Dewan:—Would you mention specific instances?

Member.—Yes, I shall do it in the course of a month.

(f) *Industrial and Technical Education.* The Member pointed out the importance of encouraging Industrial and Technical Education and said that, though the need for an Industrial Survey had been brought up by Messrs. K. G. Sessa Iyer and Mamman Mappilla at the Sixth Session of the Assembly, and by Mr. Martandan Tampi at the Second Session, nothing had been done in the matter as yet.

Dewan:—The difficulty is to get the correct kind of man for the work. The question has been constantly in my mind, but unless we could get a really good man, it would be useless to start the Survey.

The Member then referred to the existence of a school for painting in the Fort, which had enjoyed the benefit of a grant prior to the advent of the Code, but which had not been given a grant in spite of several applications since.

Dewan:—The Director will dispose of the application.

(g) *Increase of fees in schools.* The Member said that the Government should not follow British India in this matter, that the rates of fees had been increased only just three years ago and to again increase the same was a hardship to the poor people of the State. He requested the Government to follow the policy laid down in the report of the Education Commission. The Member also quoted the opinions of Messrs R. Easwara Pillai, V. Nagam Aiya and Kunjuni Menon, in support of his request.

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Dewan.—I would draw your attention to the circumstance that the Secondary Schools are likely to be much more costly in their maintenance in future. The fee income would only pay 50 p. c. of the outlay incurred, considering the recent large increase in the salaries of the teachers and also the expenditure on buildings and appliances.

The Member proceeded to say that the result of the increase of fees was to shut the door of higher education mercilessly against poor and deserving students, who formed the majority.

He also pointed out the necessity for making adequate provision for the encouragement of poor and deserving students by scholarships and fee concessions. Sections 127 and 22 read together would mean that concessions were not recognized by the Government. There was no provision in the Code for such concessions. The Member proposed that a reasonable number of scholarships be instituted in each school, irrespective of backward or forward classes, and that a competitive examination be held at the beginning of every school year for granting the scholarships.

Dewan.—The question of scholarships is under the consideration of the Director.

(h) *Extension of Elementary Education.* The Member referred to the very low rate of grant given to the Elementary Schools and said that the grant might be made equal to the pay of the teachers in the Sirkar schools. The Managers of Private schools found it difficult to secure teachers for their schools owing to the better encouragement offered in the Sirkar schools.

(i) *Encouragement to Private schools.* The Member said that the policy now adopted towards Aided schools generally seemed to be based on a want of confidence in the Managers, who were teased for any little breach of any provision of the Code. There were other difficulties also in the working of the Private schools.

(1) Delay in sanctioning recognition and grant, was working great hardship. There were very many cases in which the schools had not obtained grant for the last one year.

Dewan.—We have got returns. 912 (out of 1,213) applications have been sanctioned. If you give me a list of the schools whose applications have not been disposed of, I shall include them in the applications pending disposal and insist on early disposal.

(2) The restriction imposed upon the Manager not to allow the strength of any class to exceed 35 and the compulsion to divide the class into two divisions, if the strength exceeds 35 even by only one or two, was working serious hardship. He proposed that the headmasters be permitted the option of retaining the strength up to 40.

Dewan.—We hope to deal with this question.

(3) The treatment meted out to the headmasters of Private schools at the time of the School Leaving Certificate Examination was very regrettable, in that they were not allowed to get into the examination room, but had to stand outside for identifying the pupils. They might well be appointed Superintendents. Otherwise, an assistant teacher might be allowed to identify the students.

Dewan.—The Director says that he will consider this matter.

(4) According to Section 147 of the Code, the grants, were fixed by calculating the fee income as it stood on paper without taking into consideration the scholarships and fee concessions. The Member proposed that the resolution of the Madras Legislative Council in the matter of grants, namely, that 85 percent of the actual fee income should be calculated and that the difference between this and the actual expenditure should be given as grant, should be adopted in this State.

(5) The rule giving the discretion to the Director in the matter of choosing the subject which a teacher may be permitted to teach, when he applies for a license, should be altered so as to allow licenses being given as recommended by the Manager. At present, there were cases in which licenses have been issued to teachers to teach subjects which they were not fit to teach, and the Managers were consequently put to much trouble.

(i) *Encouragement to Vernacular Education.* The Member said that higher Vernacular Education was discouraged, in that the standard had been reduced by one step, from eight to seven classes, and he suggested that Vernacular High Schools should be opened with better equipment and staff and that prizes for efficiency should also be offered. Better encouragement should also be given to the teachers in the Vernacular schools.

Dewan's reply.—I am very glad that you have gone through your subject so fully.

Mr. Kochupapu Tharakan (Member, Nominated) spoke of the inability of grown-up girls to put in 85 per cent attendance, as they were forced to stay away

An amendment should be made in the Education Code, allowing girls to appear for the School Leaving Examination privately